

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 5 and 6 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 1, 39, and 41 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 4, 7-13, 17-21, 29-39, and 41 are pending and under consideration.

Rejection of Claims 1, 5, 17, 21, 29, 32, 35-39, and 41 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 5, 17, 21, 29, 32, 35-39, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0011544 to Bosson. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants incorporate the features of claims 5 and 6 into independent claims 1, 39, and 41. As noted on page 4, the Office Action indicates that claim 6 includes allowable features. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 39, and 41 is respectfully requested.

Claims 17, 21, 29, 32, and 35-38 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 17, 21, 29, 32, and 35-38 also patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Rejection of Claims 3, 4, 33, and 34 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 3, 4, 33, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bosson in view of U.S. Patent 6,189,842 issued to Bergeron Gull et al (hereinafter referred to as "Bergeron Gull"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Applicants incorporate the features of claims 5 and 6 into independent claim 1. Claims 3, 4, 33, and 34 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 3, 4, 33, and 34 also patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Objection to Claims 6, 7, 30, and 31

Applicants cancel claim 6 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 7, 30, and 31 depend from claim 1, which includes the allowable features of claim 6. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Summary

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-13, 17-21, 29-39, and 41 are pending and under consideration. It is respectfully submitted that none of the references taken alone or in combination disclose the present claimed invention.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

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